

19.11.2010

Prof. Dr. Dirk Helbing
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Chair of Sociology (Modeling and Simulation)
ETH Zürich
CLU E1
Clausslusstrasse 50
Boga Zürich
Switzerland

Dear Professor Helbing,

I would like to inform you about the interest of Aalto University regarding the proposed FET Flagship Project FuturICT within the European Union's Framework Programme.

Aalto University is created from the merger of three leading Finnish universities on the beginning of this year. Aalto is multi- and interdisciplinary university focusing on research and education in the fields of economics, art and design, and science and technology.

Our university emphasizes multi- and interdisciplinary approach in research based on high-level basic research. Aalto University's goal is to solve timely and multifaceted problems and questions with scientific research. University supports and encourages its researchers and teachers to international collaboration with the best coworkers around the world.

From the above described point of view I am convinced that visionary, science and goal-driven large-scale initiative of FuturICT will be an appropriate tool to support research at the cutting edge, and integrate the European engineering, natural, and social science communities. In this kind of collaboration frame the European scientists are able to get answers to a whole range of challenging questions. Excellent research and active collaborations have a large potential, and important economical, technological and societal impacts in improving the welfare and competitiveness of Europe and its citizens.

Sincerely yours,



Heikki Mannila
Vice President, Professor